

SEPARATE STATE PROGRAMS

Wisconsin operates several programs in addition to the federal TANF programs that are funded exclusively with state funds. These programs serve needy families that are ineligible per TANF restrictions (42 USC 608) and other low-income persons. Expenditures under these Separate State Programs will be distinctly tracked in the state's accounting system and will be counted toward the state's MOE requirement for TANF.

W-2 Services for Qualified Aliens

Wisconsin provides benefits and services to qualified aliens without regard to the restrictions found under 8 USC 1612 and 1613. The following qualified aliens may be eligible for W-2, subject to the same eligibility determination used for citizen applicants:

- An alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- An alien granted asylum under section 208 of such Act;
- A refugee admitted to the United States under section 207 of such Act;
- An alien paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of such Act;
- An alien whose deportation is being withheld under section 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of such Act;
- An alien granted conditional entry pursuant to section 203(a)(7) of such Act as in effect prior to April 1, 1980;
- An alien who has been certified as a victim of trafficking;
- An alien who is granted status as a Cuban and Haitian entrant, as defined in section 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980;
- An American Indian born in Canada who is at least 50% American Indian by blood, or born outside of the United States who is a member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe;
- A alien who has been battered or whose child has been battered;
- An alien admitted to the United States as an Amerasian immigrant, as described in section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations act of 1988;
- An alien lawfully residing in the United States who is an honorably discharged veteran, in active duty in, or the spouse or unremarried surviving spouse (under specified circumstances) of a veteran or active member of the U.S. armed forces; or
- An alien lawfully residing in the United States who is authorized to work by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Children First Program

Children First is a program which promotes the emotional and financial responsibility of the non-custodial parent to his or her children. The non-custodial parent, who has no current means of meeting a child support obligation, is behind in child support payments and does not work full-time, may be ordered by the court to participate in the Children First program. Judges are given the discretion to determine which non-custodial parents should be referred to the program based on their lack of financial resources and, therefore, no uniform income eligibility requirements have been set. The Children First program operates concurrently with the W-2 program. Federal approval for the use of waiver savings funds for Children First was received on January 4, 1993. Currently the Children First program is funded solely with state funds, including the state's share of certain assigned child support, and is counted as TANF MOE under a "grandfather" provision.

The Children First program requires a court order mandating non-custodial parent participation in the program. The program provides, at a minimum, job search assistance, work experience, education, training opportunities and case management services designed to enable eligible non-custodial parents to obtain and retain employment. The overall result, that of developing a bond between the non-custodial parent and the child(ren) and a communication line between the non-custodial parent and the custodial parent, is essential.

The Children First program is successfully completed when a participant makes full child support payments for three consecutive months or completes 16 weeks of employment and training activities. If these goals are not achieved, the participant may be referred to court for appropriate disposition. A crucial element to the success of the program is the partnership between the court system, the child support agency and the administering Children First agency.

Department of Health and Family Services

Substance Abuse Services

DHFS solicited proposals to provide new or expanded community-based alcohol and other drug abuse treatment programs that meet the special needs of TANF eligible individuals, with problems resulting from alcohol or other drug abuse (AODA) in Milwaukee County. The grants were awarded based on the programs' ability to emphasize parent education, vocational and housing assistance and coordination with other community programs and with treatment under intensive care.

Burials

Funding is available when a W-2 participant (individuals placed in W-2 work training placements, custodial parents of infants, and W-2 group members) dies and the estate of the deceased recipient is insufficient to pay the funeral, burial and cemetery expenses of the deceased recipient. The lesser of \$1,000 or the cemetery expenses that are not paid by the estate of the deceased and other persons and the lesser of \$1,500 or the funeral and burial expenses not paid by the estate of the deceased and other persons may be paid. No payment is made for funeral and burial expenses if the costs for funeral and burial expenses exceed \$3,500. No payment is made for cemetery expenses if the costs for cemetery expenses exceed \$3,500 [s. 49.30, Stats.]. Costs for these burials will be paid with segregated state funding, which Wisconsin will include in its MOE calculation.

FoodShare Benefits for Qualified Aliens

Effective August 1, 1998, Wisconsin provides state-funded FoodShare benefits to qualified aliens and their dependent children who were made ineligible for the FoodShare program solely due to provisions of PRWORA. Wisconsin currently uses state funds for any qualified aliens who are not eligible for federal Food Stamp benefits and who meet the Wisconsin FoodShare eligibility criteria. (FoodShare is the updated Wisconsin program name previously referred to as Food Stamps.)

Wisconsin uses eligibility determination and benefit levels for the federal Food Stamp Program. FSET services for those qualified aliens who would be mandatory participants under current federal guidelines are being provided under this program. Effective November 1, 1998, those qualified aliens eligible for federal Food Stamp benefits under the provisions of Public Law 105-185, the Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) will be removed from the state-funded program.

INFORMATION ON STATE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY FUNDED BY NON-TANF FUNDS

The following programs continue to meet TANF MOE eligibility criteria.

English for Southeast Asian Children

The Wausau School District will utilize state funding for a program to teach English to three-, four-, and five-year old Southeast Asian children to promote success in school among families in the Southeast Asian community.

Domestic Abuse Services

DHFS will use state funds to support the following domestic violence services:

- grants to domestic violence agencies to fund additional support services for victims of domestic violence and their children; programs for children who have witnessed domestic violence; legal advocacy; and programming to help victims achieve both safety and self-sufficiency.
- grants to organizations to provide domestic violence services to members of traditionally under-represented populations, including racial/ethnic minority groups and persons with disabilities;
- funding to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence to support a staff person to provide assistance in obtaining legal services for victims from under-represented populations.

State funds will target families with minor children, with income at or below 250 percent of poverty. Agencies must either obtain income information or eligibility information for another relevant program (e.g., W-2, food stamps, energy assistance, Medicaid, free or reduced school lunch, child care assistance) to determine who qualifies as eligible.

Domestic Abuse Services for Traditionally Under-Represented Racial and Ethnic Minorities

This initiative provides state funding to Refugee Strengthening Programs to assist with the provision of domestic abuse services to refugees and former refugees that have become citizens. State funds will target families with minor children, with income at or below 250 percent of poverty.

Brighter Futures and Tribal Adolescent Services Programs

Under the Administration of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS), the Brighter Futures and tribal adolescent services programs award state-funded grants to nonprofit corporations and public agencies in Milwaukee County, county social services agencies in other counties, and Native American tribes or bands. The purpose of the grants is to fund programs for the prevention of youth violence, substance use and abuse, child abuse and neglect, and non-marital pregnancy, and for the promotion of adolescent self-sufficiency.

Head Start Expansion

Through the use of state and other funds, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is administering Head Start programs that provide full-time care, in order to support low-income parent's work efforts.

Family Resource Centers

The Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (also known as the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund) utilizes state and other funds to support seventeen (17) Family Resource

Centers around the state. Family Resource Centers primarily focus services on parents and their children from birth to age three. Recognizing that all parents need help at some time, but that not all families need the same kind or intensity of support, Family Resource Centers have developed a wide range of services to meet the individual needs of the community including: parenting skills training; programs that promote responsible fatherhood and increase the capacity for fathers to support their children emotionally; and activities to promote parental access and visitation.

Enclosures